

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 HA-05 EUR-12 /097 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7397
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDID ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS TEHRAN 2563

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR IR SO
SUBJ: EDITORIAL SUPPORT FOR SOMALIAN DECISION TO WITHDRAW

1. IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE OFFICIALLY-INSPIRED EDITORIAL,
MARCH 13 ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY "TEHRAN JOURNAL"
CHARACTERIZED SOMALIAN DECISION TO WITHDRAW ITS REGULAR
FORCES FROM OGADEN AS QUOTE EXTREMELY COURAGEOUS ACT UNQUOTE.
LEADING PARAGRAPH CONCLUDES THAT QUOTE PRES SIAD
BARRE HAS SHOWN CLEARLY THAT THE SOMALIS ARE FIMLY COMMITTED
TO PEACE ON THE HORN OF AFRICA UNQUOTE. WHILE ADMITTING
THE OPTIONS OPEN TO THE SOMALIS WERE LIMITED, THE EDITORIAL
NOTES THAT QUOTE SIAD BARRE'S DECISION COULD NOT HAVE BEEN
EASY UNQUOTE.

2. SECOND HALF OF LONG EDITORIAL FOCUSES ON US POLICY
IN AREA, SAYING THAT QUOTE AMERICAN POLICY ON THE OGADEN
CONFLICT HAS NOT BEEN VERY POSITIVE. THE US HAS
REFUSED SOMALI APPEALS FOR ARMS. IN FACT THE US
ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT LIVED UP TO EXPECTATIONS IN REGARD
TO THE HORN OF AFRICA. LEADERS OF THE LIBERATION
MOVEMENTS IN THE OGADEN HAVE ASKED WITH SOME VENOM WHETHER
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THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY APPLIES
ONLY TO DISSENTERS IN RUSSIAN JAILS AND NOT TO THE OPPRESSED
AND COLONIZED PEOPLES IN THE OGADEN UNQUOTE. ALLOWING THAT QUOTE
THERE ARE SIGNS OF IMPROVED US ATTITUDE UNQUOTE, THE
'JOURNAL' SUGGESTS THAT QUOTE AMERICA MAY HAVE
TO ACT MORE DECISIVELY AND RELATIVELY QUICKLY TO
PREVENT A RETURN OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN SOMALIA IN PARTI-

CULAR AND AFRICA IN GENERAL UNQUOTE. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES
WITH THOUGHT THAT QUOTE HAVING ENCOURAGED THE SOMALIS TO PULL OUT,
SURELY THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO IMPOSE EVEN
STRONGER DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE ON THE SOVIET UNION, ETHIOPIA AND
CUBA TO END THE FIGHTING UNQUOTE.

3. COMMENT: THIS EDITORIAL, TOGETHER WITH GOI OFFICIAL
STATEMENT, MARCH 12 (REPORTED SEPTTEL), PROVIDES MOST RECENT
REACTION OF GOI TO HORN OF AFRICA CONFLICT.
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